

**Comments of Jennifer Amann
Director, Buildings Program
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy**

February 23, 2010

RE: Support of H.B. No. 5217, An Act Concerning Energy Efficient Products

The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) submits these comments in support of H.B. 5217, An Act Concerning Energy Efficient Products. ACEEE is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing energy efficiency as a means of promoting both economic prosperity and environmental protection. ACEEE fulfills its mission by conducting in-depth technical and policy assessments; advising policymakers and program managers; working collaboratively with businesses, public interest groups, and other organizations; publishing books, conference proceedings, and reports; organizing conferences and workshops; and educating consumers and businesses. ACEEE was involved in the legislation establishing federal efficiency standards, and has been active in all federal rulemakings since that time. We have also played an active role in the development and adoption of minimum efficiency standards in a number of states.

H.B. 5217 will create minimum efficiency standards for televisions, compact audio products, and DVD players and recorders—products for which no federal standard exists. The case for state energy efficiency standards for this group of products is very strong. A few key criteria distinguish these products and make them good candidates for state energy efficiency standards.

- **Very, very cost effective to buyers and users** – Energy bill savings pay back any incremental cost of products meeting the standards within one year. After that, savings accrue to consumers.
- **Readily available** – Products and technologies meeting the standards are readily available today from multiple manufacturers.
- **Significant energy savings statewide** – each standard makes a meaningful contribution to meeting the state's energy needs.
- **Low-cost implementation** – Each standard is ready to implement since other states are already using or proposing identical standards.

Two states (CA and OR) have already adopted standards on compact audio products and DVD players and recorders. California has adopted standards on TVs, while Washington and Maryland are considering them. The same standards included in H.B. 5217 are pending in Massachusetts along with standards on several other products. By joining these states, Connecticut will be taking the lead in adopting standards that reduce state electricity consumption, save consumers and businesses money, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Experience shows that when states take the lead, the federal government follows with national standards—the result is a powerful energy savings policy.

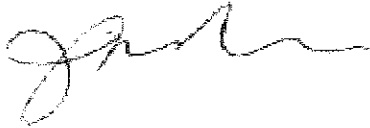
According to an analysis conducted by ACEEE and the Appliance Standards Awareness Project, the proposed standards will reduce annual electricity consumption in Connecticut by 214 GWh in 2020, growing to savings of 276 GWh in 2030. Annual energy bill savings to Connecticut consumers total \$33 million in 2020, increasing to more than \$52 million in 2030 (using current average state electricity prices). These energy and dollar savings are accompanied by summer peak capacity reductions of 7.4 MW and carbon emissions reductions of more than 110,000 metric tons in 2020.

Among the standards in H.B. 5217, the one that delivers the lion's share of the energy and dollar savings is the one for televisions. Energy efficiency standards for TVs are particularly timely as televisions account for a growing percentage of household electricity use and as some new models rank among the highest energy users in the home (rivaling a new refrigerator in some cases). Leading TV manufacturers have already introduced a

range of models that exceed the proposed 2013 standards. Compliant models come in all sizes and price points and offer a full range of features, including the ability to play 3D content and connect to the Internet. Despite the progress made by these leading firms, others continue to manufacture and sell inefficient models. Standards will ensure that all manufacturers follow the leaders to offer consumers TVs that meet their expectations for performance while reducing energy bills and the resultant pollution.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Amann", with a stylized, flowing script.

Jennifer Amann
Director, Buildings Program
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy